

DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

news release

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TEN SPECIES OF SNAKES AND LIZARDS BEING STUDIED

Ten species of lizards and snakes are being studied as possible candidates for the endangered species list, Keith M. Schreiner, Associate Director of the Interior Department's U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, announced today.

The species are: Baker's legless lizard, Pandanus skink, desert kingsnake, flat-tailed horned lizard, black pine snake, Louisiana pine snake, short-tailed snake, Miami crowned snake, gray-banded kingsnake, and Coachella Valley fringe-toed lizard.

These reptiles occur in very limited areas in various parts of the United States including Arizona, California, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Louisiana, Texas, Mississippi, Alabama, Puerto Rico, Florida, Guam, and the Pacific Trust Territories. No one factor apparently is contributing to the decline of these species as a group--each is affected by different threats to its environment such as overcollecting or habitat destruction.

For example the pencil thin, foot-long Miami crowned snake occurs only in the suburbs of that city and is threatened by urbanization. The pine snakes and desert king and gray-banded kingsnakes are sought after for the pet trade.

Persons with information that may assist in determining whether any or all of these species should be listed as endangered or threatened are requested to write to the Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (OES), Washington, D.C. 20240, by February 1, 1978.

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